

According to a letter that SBC recently sent to Museumtour.com, SBC owns two patents for a web site navigation feature called a structured document browser that relies on frames or tabs to give web sites a consistent look from one page to another. SBC has begun demanding licensing fees from web sites that use this type of navigation. Hundreds of thousands of web sites could be effected if SBC's patent claim is upheld, including many web sites operated by nonprofit organizations and grassroots activists. The use of frames was established as an internet standard in the early 90's and was used throughout the network before this patent was granted. The patent was granted even though there was public disclosure by others and not SBC on the use of frames on the internet. Please do not allow the SBC the right to collect on any of these patents.

Best regards,  
Mark Fontanella